



Department of Justice

United States Attorney's Office District of North Dakota

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Oakes Man Sentenced on a Federal Firearm Charge after Standoff

FARGO - Acting United States Attorney Lynn Jordheim announced that on

March 4, 2010, **Francisco Angel Castro, a/k/a Frank Castro**, of Oakes, North Dakota, was sentenced before United States District Court Chief Judge Ralph R. Erickson on a charge of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon in connection with an August 9, 2009, standoff with the police in Oakes.

Castro, 36, pleaded guilty on December 21, 2009, to being a felon in possession of one Hatsan Arms Company, Model Escort, 12-gauge shotgun. He was prohibited from possessing the shotgun after having previously been convicted of gross sexual imposition, a Class A felony, on or about February 27, 1998, in Sargent County District Court, North Dakota.

At approximately 6:00 a.m. on August 9, 2009, Castro returned to his residence in Oakes after a night of drinking. He assaulted his wife, with young children being present, and broke her cell phone when she attempted to call 911. Castro then physically forced his wife to leave the house without the children and told her if she called the police he would get the shotgun and "we'll all be dead and you'll see it." He further told his wife that he would kill anyone that came in the house.

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When an Oakes police officer responded to the scene and knocked on the door, Castro stated, "I'll...kill you." A standoff ensued and the house was surrounded by law enforcement, including assisting officers from the Dickey County Sheriff's Department and the James Valley Special Operations Team, which includes officers from the North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigation, Jamestown Police Department, Valley City Police Department, and James River Corrections Negotiations Team. The standoff lasted approximately nine hours before Castro surrendered without further incident. The shotgun was found during a consent search of the house after Castro's surrender.

Judge Erickson sentenced Castro to 14 months in prison to be followed by three years of supervised release. Castro was ordered to pay a \$100 special assessment to the Crime Victim's Fund. Castro requested to surrender voluntarily to the U.S. Bureau of Prisons. He was ordered by Judge Erickson to report to his designated prison facility on May 12, 2010.

Assistant United States Attorney Scott J. Schneider said, "The incident involved serious domestic violence by Castro, which he escalated by threatening to get his shotgun and kill people. Someone could have easily gotten seriously hurt or killed in the Oakes standoff, and Castro, a felon, should never have been in possession of the shotgun."

The federal firearms case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives with assistance from the Oakes Police Department and other agencies involved in the standoff.

State charges against Castro in connection with the August 9, 2009, incident remain pending in North Dakota District Court in Dickey County.

Assistant United States Attorney Scott J. Schneider prosecuted the case.

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